

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Tong Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: none

Staff: Phil Hester, Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Services Bureau
J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Angelo Barrera, Community Recreation Services
Gladys Kaiser, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Terri Eggers, Community Services Supervisor
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Robert Lamond

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 17, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to approve the May 17, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#07-0601

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver confirmed that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#07-0602

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND TERM WITH BRIAN MATHEW BLACK DBA TOP NOTCH EVENTS

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute the Fifth Amendment to Permit No. 26949 with Brian Mathew Black, dba Top Notch Events, for a term of one year, expiring July 31, 2008, with options for renewal subject to the discretion of the Director. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met.

- Nomination Committee's Recommendation for 2007-2008 Officers

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the Nomination Committee met and they stand with the officers as they currently are, with Harry Saltzgaver as President and Drew Satariano as Vice President.

President Saltzgaver asked for any further nominations. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to close the nominations and approve Harry Saltzgaver as President and Drew Satariano as Vice President. The motion carried unanimously.

- Committee Assignments for 2007-2008

President Saltzgaver stated that they didn't make any changes, but if any of the Commissioners would want to change committees, he would be open to that. He said that they reviewed the committees and their functions and it is the Executive Committee's recommendation to change the Equal Employment Opportunity and Customer Satisfaction Committee to the Planning and Performance Committee. This committee would still be in charge of customer service and would also take on the responsibility of the Focus on Results reports and assist staff in their wrapping up of the new Strategic Plan process. This is a good move and one that will assist the Department in a better manner than what the previous committee has been able to do in the last several months. This is also the Equal Opportunity Committee and the Department has been a leader in the City's efforts in their hiring practices.

Mr. Hester stated that the Park Safety Committee has also been expanded to address park safety options in City parks, such as landscaping and cameras, etc.

President Saltzgaver stated that staff has also been added to the Park Safety Committee. He said that the list of the current committee meeting schedule was included in the packet. The chairs, in conjunction with staff, are allowed to change those meetings, if they feel it is necessary.

President Saltzgaver asked for any comments, responses, or problems from the Commissioners.

Vice President Satariano said that consistency from year to year is very important in these committees and this is the best work he has seen as far as carryover and taking a look at a subcommittee and changing the name because it is the appropriate thing to do. He encouraged everyone to buy into this because they spent a fair amount of time in Executive Committee talking about this and believe it will be very effective this next year.

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Equal Employment Opportunity and Customer Satisfaction Committee had been floundering and this should be a good change of direction.

- Change of Commission Meeting Schedule for 2007

President Saltzgaver stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission would meet another time at MacArthur Park/Homeland, to allow more time to complete the building. He said that the Executive Committee recommends some changes in the schedule. For September, the Commission would meet at MacArthur Park/Homeland instead of Bixby Park, and in November, the Commission would meet at Chavez Park instead of El Dorado Park West. President Saltzgaver stated that if the Commissioners had any changes or concerns, to please let him know.

Mr. Hester suggested that if any of the Commissioners would like to change their meeting schedule, to please contact Robin Black.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet but the statement of revenues and expenditures was included in the packet. He commended City staff for being blunt and honest on the budget situation at the Budget Workshop. They have not gone over the Department's budget yet, but they will do that after the Mayor reviews it.

Mr. Squires stated that the Department cannot publicly release the budget information until the Mayor releases it on August 1. The Department, along with all the other departments, has taken a 4.8 percent reduction in the overall General Fund budget this next year. We have lost the flexibility in this budget to take on unfunded projects and special requests during the year.

President Saltzgaver suggested that some extra time be set aside in July's Executive Committee meeting to discuss budget issues.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee would meet in August.

Mr. Bill Greco stated that the Park Rangers would again this year support Partners of Parks and pick up the donations given at the Municipal Band concerts. He also stated that they arrested three juveniles caught spray painting at Wardlow Park.

President Saltzgaver asked for an update on the Nature Center.

Mr. Greco responded that they are still performing nightly checks.

Lt. Joe Stilinovich stated that the City Attorney is still working on the verbiage of the special Municipal Code they requested. It has not been presented to the City Council yet. He said that there was a group of youth, ages 15 to 27, who were going to have a party in the Nature Center after-hours. One of the staff alerted the Park Rangers and approximately eight or nine individuals were arrested for drug possession. City staff is still working on the issue.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that Committee did not meet, but they look forward to the new issues.

President Saltzgaver suggested that the Committee schedule a meeting soon, before the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee would meet in July.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that the Committee met and one person from Long Beach Unified School District attended the meeting. They received a report on the summer programs. The Committee is working on a letter to be sent to the School District on their Master Plan. What came out of the meeting was not only a focus on open spaces, but also the after school programming and how the master plan really does need to address the fact that there appears to be a tremendous amount of funding. But, if it is not part of the plan, we don't feel comfortable that they have got a real plan on how to acquire all that funding. Heather Martin has been tremendously helpful.

Mr. Squires stated that Department staff met with the School District last week to start working on the business points of the actual reciprocal use agreement, that we have to have complete by the end of December. They will meet again in July.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the Committee met last month and would meet after July 4. There are a lot of events going on and they discussed a good neighbor policy and how the Department tries to work with stakeholders in the area where filming and special events are going on.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – MAY 2007

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for May 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver stated that he received a request from Councilwoman Schipske to participate in the Rosie the Riveter Task Force. He said he would have to decline. He said that he also happened to be watching Channel 8 and saw the Councilwoman's show on the skate park, where she was talking to the Chair of the Youth Commission.

Commissioner Livingstone said that he communicated with her office that he knows a former water polo player at California State University Long Beach who fell while not wearing a helmet, cracked his head open, and was clinically dead. He has offered to get involved with putting together some meetings. They didn't have enough time to put it together.

Mr. Hester stated that he believes that she is preparing a report to bring back to the City Council. He asked to meet with her Chief of Staff to discuss that before she brings that to the City Council.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE OF SUMMER PROGRAMS – CHRISSY MARSHALL

Ms. Marshall introduced Angelo Barrera, who works in the Future Generation Program at Houghton Park and helped create the DVD that she was going to show. She said that July is considered Parks and Recreation Month nationwide. She then had Mr. Barrera show the DVD video on recreation. Ms. Marshall said that she wanted to show a draft preview of the DVD to show the Commission what they were working on. She said that they wanted to show how they are actually answering the need with our statistics listed at the end. The message they are trying to get across is that they are a fun business, but a

serious business. One of the most difficult tasks of a recreator is trying to communicate or articulate what they actually do and how important it is.

Ms. Marshall distributed an information packet to the Commissioners and said that the overall theme this year is "Long Beach Recreation, Your Ticket to Summer Fun." She went over information on the brochures in the packet for movies, concerts, summer day camps, summer food program, and senior programs.

Commissioner Waterfield said that he noticed that Signal Hill was included in the summer food program. He asked if this was a partnership.

Ms. Gladys Kaiser responded that they are also including the surrounding area to partner with for the summer food program.

Commissioner Guerra asked how this information is distributed.

Ms. Marshall said that mailing is too expensive for most of the brochures. They do mail the senior newsletter to homes. The other programs are usually e-mailed to interested persons and brochures are put out in community centers, distributed at neighborhood meetings, and to the schools.

Commissioner Guerra said that his neighborhood organization distributes 2,000 newsletters every other month and they don't mail them, they hand deliver them. He said he would be happy to distribute the Department's brochures with their newsletter.

President Saltzgaver said that was one of the best advocacy videos he has ever seen. He asked how many part time youth are hired by the Department in the summer for recreation programs.

Ms. Marshall said that she would get that figure to him.

Ms. Terri Eggers said that they usually hire a lot of part time staff from their teen volunteers.

B. REPORT ON LONG BEACH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME – DREW SATARIANO

Vice President Satariano stated that they are excited about their Fourth Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies for Baseball at Blair Field and Softball at Joe Rodgers Field. He said that he was also excited that this year they have received more press from the Press Telegram than any other year and it has really come together. He went over this year's inductees and their background. He said that this event would take place Saturday afternoon, June 23. He worked closely with Gladys Kaiser, Jeff Grant, and Chrissy Marshall and they are expecting the best event yet. He invited all the Commissioners to attend.

Vice President Satariano stated that in the Department's quarterly brochure, there is a whole page on the Sea Festival. He said that this is the third year and they have gone from 30 events to 51 events and now to 81 events. This year they have professional volleyball, with the most famous volleyball player in the country, Sinjin Smith, doing volleyball camps throughout the summer.

Vice President Satariano said that there is also a tremendous focus on the TransPac departure from Long Beach to Honolulu, which is one full week of festivities at Rainbow Harbor, between July 7 and July 15. He said that they received a record number of entries this year for the event and they are very pleased. He said that another part of that is Roy Disney, who is not only racing a 93-foot boat, but is also bankrolling a movie that will be released in 2008. He filtered down 550 applicants to 15 applicants, between the ages of 18 to 21, bought them a very competitive 52-foot boat, and trained them for a year. That team has entered some regattas and gained momentum. Vice President Satariano said that the public would be hearing more about that.

President Saltzgaver stated that if anyone wasn't aware, Mr. Satariano is the President of the Sea Festival Board.

IX. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester said that this past weekend, Special Olympics held their Summer Games at California State University Long Beach and it was very successful. He said there were a lot of comments about them coming to Long Beach and there was a lot of excitement and support for that. Maintenance Operations staff is working very hard with Special Olympics to try and get them moved over by the first of August. Edison is helping with the electrical. Mr. Hester said that he talked to Commissioner Satariano about getting some Adaptive Recreation kids to participate on some of the TransPac boats. He said there should be a lot of opportunities like that for Special Olympics.

Mr. Dennis Eschen stated that they would be having a community meeting on the Park Impact Fee increase on July 11, at 6:30 p.m. He said that the item would go before the City Council on July 17.

Mr. Geoff Hall said that he would give an update on the FOR Long Beach report for May. He said that the performance numbers for May continue to be very strong. The one measure that is somewhat troublesome is the number of park ranger patrols, which is down 35 percent from last year. This is due to a number of vacancies, in both full and part-time staff. Our transition to the new performance system is continuing. By the first of August, all staff should be using it, and once that data is in the system, they will be able to generate a variety of reports. The Manager of Budget and Performance Management expressed a concern about the complexity of setting up some of our measures in the system, particularly the measures for youth and teen, which has over 300 data points of entry. This in itself is bigger than the total of many departments.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner George said that the Special Olympics event was very well done. He also wanted to mention that Mr. Hester won an award for the work he had done with the Special Olympics.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that it looks like there are a lot of great events this summer and she is looking forward to attending a lot of them.

Commissioner Guerra said that he appreciates all the hard work everyone has put into the summer programs and it should be a fun summer.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that his grandmother worked for the Department in the 60s and 70s and he really appreciates the staff and the job they do.

Vice President Satariano wanted to echo Commissioner Livingstone's comments and wanted to add that on Friday, July 13, the TransPac boat "Ragtime" is taking out ten Special Olympics sailors.

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council approved a Department request for an agreement with the American Pride tall ship. In the agreement was an item to accept in-kind service to allow 1,000 kids from all the local parks during the summer to go sailing on the American Pride and have that experience. In part of that discussion, Supervisor Knabe was going to give \$10,000 to cover the bus costs to get the kids transported there.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Third District Councilmember opened up a discussion about Livingston Park with a proposal to build a parking lot there and move the tot lot playground to another location. A group of residents have banded together to raise money to rebuild and improve that playground. Hopefully, by the end of the year, they will come before the Parks and Recreation Commission with a check for about \$150,000.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Saltzgaver stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, 2007, at El Dorado Park West in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine